

## Home of the Braves

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This issue of  
*Home of the  
Braves* is  
dedicated to the  
memory of  
Mrs. Liz Wernig.

## Social Media Safety

By: Kate Watchmaker, grade 6  
and Sidney Laden, grade 6

On Tuesday January 16, 2017, the sixth graders had the social media safety presentation in the auditorium at Miscoe Hill. Melissa Angiolillo hosted this presentation and told us a little bit about social media safety. She talked about how people bullied and harassed people on social media—Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and Facebook—and what to do when you are put in an uncomfortable situation on the internet. She explained to us that when you are put into an uncomfortable situation, get an adult! Most people bully on the internet because they think they are anonymous, and don't think of the other person's feelings, which can lead to bad results including losing jobs, (RARELY) but sometimes death, a \$1,000 fine, and up to a year in jail. Cyberbullying can include mean messages, fake pages, and impersonating. Not to mention nothing is deleted on the internet, so people can find personal pictures on your account! They can still see pictures, screenshot



them, and pass them on, even if you delete the picture.

The people on the internet can cause a lot of trouble, but the internet can be a fun, great place! This article, like the presentation, isn't to scare you but there are some things you can do to stop cyber bullying 1) Tell an adult! 2) Don't just stand there and be a bystander 3) If someone is trying to cyberbully you, do whatever you can to get rid of them, get a new account, ignore them, and/or block them!

The next time you pick up your phone or other device and post something on the Internet be cautious, courteous and careful!

## The History of Miscoe Hill

By: Fiona Healey, grade 6

I would like to thank Mrs. Manser, a 6th grade English teacher, for the following information. Did you know that Miscoe Hill has some of the coolest history ever! From famous bands to teachers who are scientists. To start off, Miscoe opened in 1957, 60 years ago. At one point in time during those 60 years, the cafeterias used to be so crowded that the kids who bought hot lunch had to eat in the lower cafeteria, and the kids that brought from home had to eat in the upper gym! And, Mrs. Meyer (our current principal) has held many roles such as, 6th grade science teacher, track coach, and Principal.



Have you ever wondered why in the front of Nipmuc High School it says, "Nipmuc High School/Middle School?" Well, that's because the 8th graders used to go to school at Nipmuc temporarily while they were building Memorial.

In other news, the famous rock band Aerosmith's FIRST performance took place in the Miscoe Hill Gym and they only charged 25 cents to see them perform! Miscoe Hill has had an exciting past, and it will be interesting to see where it goes in the future.

# District Programs

## Study Abroad: A Journey to Iceland

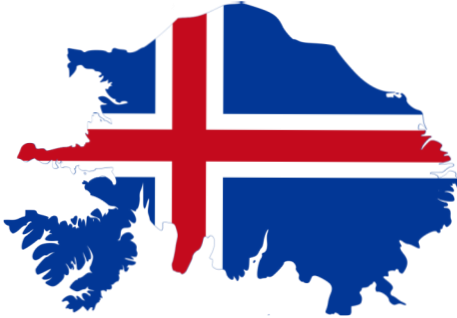
By: Jenna Meleedy, grade 8

In July of 2018, a team of students from Nipmuc will fly off to Iceland and spend the next twelve days journeying through breathtaking landscapes, exploring foreign cultures, contributing to the community and learning invaluable life skills. This is all because of World Challenge, an organization that since 1978 has given over 8,000 students completely unique experiences all across the world. These expeditions are led almost entirely by the students; they create an itinerary, keep track of budgets, cook, decide where to go, and plan what to do with extra time. There is a group leader among them that changes each day. There are also, of course, World Challenge leaders and expedition assistants to supervise and keep students safe, but most of the responsibilities of the trip are placed on the challengers.

The trip is split up into four parts- Acclimatisation, Trekking, Project, and Rest and Relaxation. The Acclimatisation Phase is for the students to become familiar with the environment; they will temporarily stay in a pre-booked hotel and take in the scene while making final preparations and stocking up. They'll then trek through The Golden Circle and see blasting water spouts and Iceland's most famous waterfall. These are only small day hikes though, leading up to the big trek over the course of four days (traveling 6 to 8 hours per day) through obsidian plains, volcanic landscapes, and geothermal pools. In the night they'll sleep in mountain huts. The Project Phase will have students

contributing to the environment and interacting with natives. Iceland has one the harshest inhabited climates in the planet, so there are a variety of ways to help with land conservation. How students spend their Rest and Relaxation time is up to them, though they have to spend their budget wisely. They will stay in a hotel at this point; and could choose to go out whale watching, exploring the city, or swimming in a lagoon.

This journey is known to be extremely effective in building communication, decision-making, teamwork and money managing skills. Currently, the trip to Iceland is open to any 8th, 9th, 10, or 11th grader in Miscoe Hill and Nipmuc willing to put in



the effort. If you're not yet an 8th grader though, don't worry- you haven't missed out. Nipmuc World Challenge trips happen every other year; the next one being in 2020 and somewhere

undecided in Europe. The total amount of money due is \$4,150, and payments should be made by personal checks or online banking. Beforehand, interested students will have once-a-month meetings with a representative to create ways to raise money for the trip and train for the demanding hikes. There is no limit to how many students can join.

I got the chance to speak with two Nipmuc students, Diana Richard and Jack McCarthy; both of whom went on the 2016 trip to Belize. I think they have it summed up perfectly:

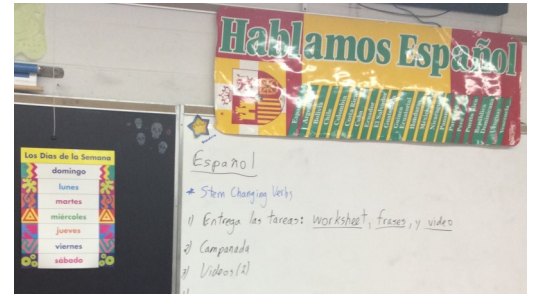
"It's epic and life changing, I do recommend." -Jack

"Go in with an open mind... it was probably the most challenging and insane experience ever." -Diana

For further information visit [wcexpeditions.com](http://wcexpeditions.com).

## The Benefits of Spanish Immersion

By: Alexis Lavigne, grade 7



A display in the Spanish Immersion Classroom. Photo by Alexis Lavigne

The Spanish Immersion program is a great way to meet new people and learn a new language. It has helped kids feel more confident in what they want to do and in what they enjoy doing.

We interviewed a 7th grade Spanish student, Samantha Stephens, and asked her about how much of an advantage Spanish Immersion can be for kids. She answered, "I absolutely love being in Spanish Immersion! It has helped me learn a lot about different languages and cultures. A benefit of being in Spanish Immersion is that I have known the kids in my class since kindergarten. I would definitely recommend looking into the Spanish Program."

Our world has gotten very small since phones and social media have been released. Back then, many people wanted to learn new languages and cultures. But now everything have changed.

Luckily, there are still parents out there who would like their child to participate in learning a new language.

# District Programs

## iPads at Miscoe: Yay or Nay?

By: Matthew Allington, grade 5



Allie Martin working on her iPad during class.  
Photo by Matthew Allington.

In 2013 Dr. Maruszczak, Mr. Amitrano and the MURSD school committee decided to introduce iPads to Miscoe Hill Middle School. I had the opportunity to interview Mrs. Gervais and Mr. Schwab regarding iPads in our school. They estimate that we have between 800-900 iPads in our school. Both of our technology teachers feel that the addition of iPads should enhance and improve students learning since they have quick access to information. They also feel the introduction to iPads will help students keep up with the changing world.

Both teachers agreed that iPads should not replace textbooks. Mrs. Gervais thinks that iPads can be distracting because students may rely on them too much. Mr. Schwab believes that they can improve a student's education.

Did you hear that the MCAS this year will be administered solely on the iPad? I asked our technology teachers how they felt about this. They both agreed that having the tests on the iPads will take some getting used to because the students are used to writing notes on paper. My final question of both of our tech teachers was "what are some of your favorite apps?" Mrs. Gervais likes Canva, Pic Collage and coding apps while Mr. Schwab enjoys Google Drive, Touch Cast and iMovie.

## MCAS Prep—Tools & Tips

By: Megan Reilly, grade 5

MCAS is a very important part of the year for the whole school and it is super important to be prepared. Here are a couple of steps that you may want to follow for preparation.

**Step one:** Find out what day MCAS is and put it in your calendar. You always want to be prepared.

**Step two:** Sleep is always a good idea. You need to have as much sleep as your body can take.

**Step three:** If you don't know already we are having MCAS on our school loaned iPads, so make sure to charge them!

**Step four:** When you wake up, stretch.

**Step five:** We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

It gives you the energy to take on the day. But if it isn't healthy, it might slow you down. Eggs, berries, veggies, sausage and anything else you know is good for you, is perfect to start the day.

**Step six:** This is for anyone who has siblings. We probably get into fights once and awhile, it is important to walk away. You don't want to go to school angry.

## MCAS Dates for 2017

### ELA Reading Comp

Grade 5 - Tue - Thur - April 4,5,6

Grade 6 - April 4 & 5

Grade 7 - April 4 & 5

Grade 8 - April 4 & 5



### Mathematics

Grade 5 - Tue & Wed - May 2 & 3

Grade 6 - Tue & Wed - May 2 & 3

Grade 7 - Tue & Wed - May 2 & 3

Grade 8 - Tue & Wed - May 2 & 3

### Science and Tech/Engineering

Grade 5 - Mon & Tue - May 9 & 10

Grade 8 - Mon & Tue - May 9 &



# What to Expect in Seventh and Eighth Grade

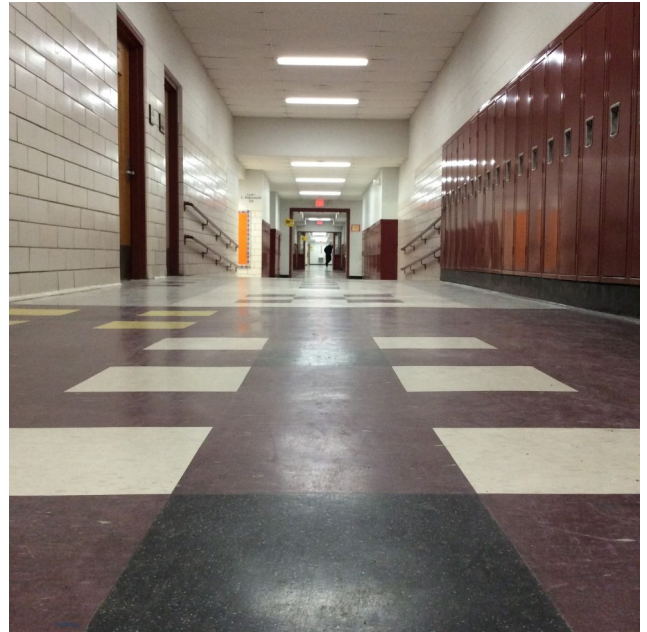
Kirsten Dinsmore, grade 8

Seventh and eighth grade were great for me. I had great teachers, moments, and I learned a lot. But, what is the difference between the two grades? Is it the work load? Or maybe the amount of expectations? Well, I'm here to tell you what it's like as a seventh and eighth grader.

Seventh grade is full of hard work, fun, and a lot of great memories. Going into seventh grade you should know how to balance school and other outside of school activities. Seventh grade Geography teacher Mrs. Rhodes says, "coming in, they should know what their best studying habits

are. What works best for them, they also need to know how to stay organized and how to balance their work." I know from my experiences from Geography, you have many quizzes and tests about the continents like Africa and Asia. But I bet the question everyone is wondering is what is the work like? Is there a lot of homework? The answer is yes, there will be more work than what you have had in the past, but it is doable. "Homework and in school work needs to be completed and be good quality, it shouldn't be a half asked job."

In eighth grade, all you



need to know is the definition of Cultural Diffusion and you're all set! (Just Kidding). Eighth grade means you are given a lot of responsibility and much more work. "Coming into eighth grade, there are a lot of expectations. You need to be able to work diligently and be able to work well with others," said eighth grade WEx teacher Mr. Charest. "They should come in with good communication skills." You work with groups of people a lot and being able to work easily with others is important. Throughout the year, you will work on many group projects like the Renaissance Fair and the Engineering Fair. So being able to work well with others is very important. The in-school and out of school work is more than you would have experienced throughout 5th-7th

grade, but again, it's all doable. "By the end of the year they'll be amazed at what they can accomplish." So far, I'm really proud of myself and my peers regarding our achievements.

You will realize that your teachers are just trying to help you towards high school and the future, they teach you a bit of everything so you can try to narrow down what you want to do in the future.

So even though the grades aren't too different, there are more expectations, more work, and more responsibilities. In the end, looking back on it. It's been a lot in a little bit of time, four years may seem like a long time, but you learn a lot in that time and you'll be incredibly grateful, whether you realize it now or not.

## Sign Up For Enrichment!

LOOKOUT FOR NEW REGISTRATION IN APRIL!

**Clubs!**  
**Robotics!**  
**Crafts!**  
**Baking!**



## Spring Attractions

- \*Field Day!
- \*Lego Robotics!
- \*Wax Museum !
- \*Renaissance Fair!

**FIELD DAY**



# Behind the Scenes of Basketball

By: Jacob McEvoy, grade 5

Mr. Rosenau, an 8th grade teacher of WEx (history) and also a basketball coach, was a great to interview. .

He says that coaching can sometimes be challenging. But this year he has a great group of student athletes with the Miscoe Hill girls basketball team, who are in the middle of a successful season. He tries to incorporate plays that he sees while watching the Boston Celtics with this team.

Coach Rosenau is in his fifth year of coaching girls basketball and the boys baseball team at Miscoe Hill, two sports he knows a lot about since he played both as a kid himself. When he first started coaching at Miscoe, Mr. Rosenau said it was a little difficult because he didn't know each kid, what they were capable of and their potential. But that has become easier with each year. His favorite part of coaching each year is seeing the kids develop and improve their skills both as individuals and, more importantly, as a team.

All around, it was great to ask Mr. Roseanu questions and learn about his coaching style.

## Spring Sports Registration!

*Don't forget to sign up!*

**Lacrosse, Baseball, and more!**



## Miscoe Hill PTO Family Fun Night at Fenway Park

**Boston Red Sox Vs. Seattle Mariners**

**Friday, May 26 · 7:10pm**

Questions? Contact Dani Joseph  
at [Dani-j@charter.net](mailto:Dani-j@charter.net)

**FRIDAY, MAY 26TH  
7:10PM**



VS.



**Spring  
Play  
at  
Miscoe  
Hill**

**Korczak  
Children**

**May 19, 20**



# Chinese Culture Meets Miscoe

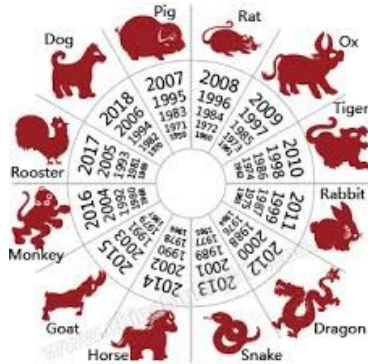
## The Year Of The Rooster!

By: Avery Allcock, grade 5

Chinese New Year recently ended back in February. Chinese New Year is the most important, and busiest holiday in China. Chinese New Year lasts for over a half a month, and the first day was on January 28th. The celebration began in the Shang Dynasty and is celebrated to welcome the New Year. This year it is the year of the rooster! The rooster is a zodiac sign with 11 others. Every year it is a different sign, with each sign meaning something about you. For example if you were born in 2017, 2005, or 1993 you're a rooster and are a hard worker, shrewd, and definite in decision making.

There are many traditions people do to celebrate the New Year in China so I asked Mrs. Luo what her favorite tradition was and she said, "I love the Chinese New Year Eve reunion dinner the best. Because on this day, the family members all get together, and we are preparing the food together, and exchange the information with the family members that are long-time-no-see. Some of us prepare the Red Couplets, and the kids are having fun with tons of snacks. And when dinner is ready, we enjoy the food and talk and share happiness and good wishes together."

On Chinese New Year Eve, people hold a large family reunion dinner, but before that, to get ready, they thoroughly clean the house, pay back



all of their debts, and decorate doors with red signs with symbols on them. On the first and second day, they visit family members. Lastly, on the fifteenth day, they release paper lanterns that light up the sky. Many people give each other hong bao, a red envelope filled with money. I asked Mrs. Luo how she was going to spend the Spring Festival here in America and she said, "I will join my community's Chinese New Year Celebration. There will be a big Gala hosted by the local Chinese Language School, where I teach students from Chinese families on the weekend. This is a tradition of this language school every year."

The Chinese New Year is a very important holiday for many people, and there are many things to be celebrated about the Spring Festival so, I asked Mrs. Luo what her favorite part about Chinese New Year was and she said, "Family reunion. Since I am a person who moves a lot, I am always so far from my parents and my other family members. Chinese New Year can always bring me together with them."

Happy New Year and Zhōngguó Xīnnián Kuàilè!

## Chinese Calligraphy

By: Ava Lozeau, grade 5

I sat down with Miscoe's mandarin teacher Mrs. Luo. We talked about Chinese calligraphy. Chinese calligraphy characters are unique in the writing world. Rather than using words, they use these characters to represent words in the Chinese language.

The characters are made up of radicals or strokes which are similar to our alphabet. Mrs. Luo didn't find Chinese calligraphy difficult to learn. She said, "When you love to do something, it is not difficult."

According to Mrs. Luo there are about 8,000 characters in the Chinese language. She said, that she doesn't even know that many characters. She explained, "when you learn to read 1,800 frequently used characters you can read books and newspapers with no difficulties. There are about 3,000 commonly used characters." She went on to say, "Many of the Chinese characters are related to each other. When you learn one, you may learn one or you may learn several." How did she memorize all of those characters? She told me, "Characters are compound with radicals, and radicals are compound with strokes. When you have learned the basic part, and know how the characters are formed, you will learn the characters easily." Mrs. Luo said, she didn't find English or Chinese writing to be easier than the other. She found them to be about the same. Those are some interesting things on Chinese calligraphy.

## All About Mrs. Luo!

Kylie Bodzinski, grade 5

After my Interview with Mrs. Luo, I have learned a lot about her. She is one of our language teachers here at Miscoe. She has been here for just over two years, and she loves it! She was the very first Mandarin teacher to teach the Mandarin language at Miscoe. I believe that Mrs. Luo is the best

teacher you could ever have for a Chinese language teacher.

A few things I have learned about her that I did not know before is that she likes to practice "Chinese calligraphy, reading, traveling, and cooking and baking for fun," Mrs. Luo said. The reason she moved to the United States is because her husband was relocated by his company to here. So she moved with him. The kind of

Chinese food that she enjoys to eat is "anything that is spicy!" I also asked her if she prefers to live in the United States then living in China and she said, "Well, to live in China and in the US are really different. I love living in China where I have my relatives and friends. I also enjoy living in Massachusetts. I am glad I have made a lot of new friends here. It is a lot of fun to experience different kinds of things."



# Miscoe Music

## Playing the Quiet Instrument

By: Allie Martin, grade 5



**The flute – the quietest instrument?**  
Photo by Allie Martin.

There are some people who don't even know that an instrument called the flute exists, and even more people who don't know about its beautiful sound.

Band is an amazing activity, and many children participate. "I love being a band teacher because I get to help kids improve," said Mrs. Amitrano, 5th and 6th grade band teacher. "Out of all the instruments, I think the saxophone is the loudest and the flute the quietest."

I play the flute, which is really hard for two reasons; you can't hear yourself when you are playing in band, and you have to blow really hard.

You can't hear yourself because every other instrument is louder than the flute. The instruments are like a salad; percussion is like lettuce, keeping everything together, the trombones are chicken, loud and visible, and the trumpets are tomatoes - you can taste/hear them, but not as well as other instruments. Then there is the French horn, an onion that you can taste/hear if you pay attention and the saxophone, like dressing, that is loud and sometimes overpowering. There are the clarinets, or croutons that you can taste/hear, although they are small, and last but not least, the flutes, small bacon bits hidden in the salad, delicious but hard to taste/hear.

The flute is also hard to play because you don't have something to blow into, but you blow across a hole.

It's fun though, to play flute, and even just to be in band.

## 5th & 6th Grade Band Concerts

By: Cecelia Van Norman, grade 6



**6th grade Chorus. Photo by: Cecelia Van Norman.**

The 5&6 grade band/chorus recently had their concerts back in January, and the 5&6 grade band teacher, Mrs. Lauren Amitrano, was quite happy with the outcome of the bands' performances. She said that both bands did great in the concerts and she loved the improvement. "I'm always expecting improvement," she said, "but I'm quite happy with the outcome." She hopes they can keep up the good work in the future. "They all did wonderful."

## Chorus: From a Soloist's Perspective

By: Cecelia Van Norman, grade 6

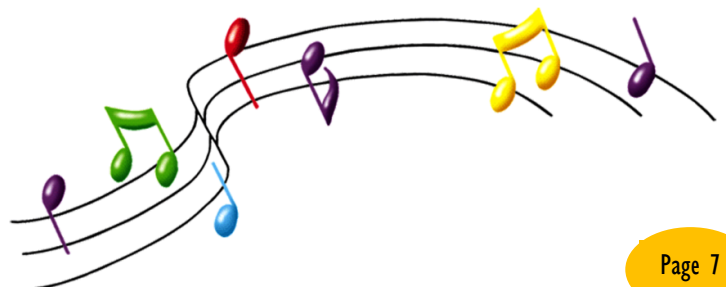
You might be in chorus and sing your heart out at the concerts, but have you ever wondered what it's like to be a soloist?

Now despite being a soloist myself, which I can tell you is quite nerve racking, I needed other opinions. So I asked the two other 6th grade soloists, Madison Orff and Meredith Doyle how they felt about it.

Madison said she felt nervous, but it didn't last long! "I felt nervous but when I started to sing I felt less nervous." She said she just sang her worries away

Meredith, was also quite nervous. "At the start I was nervous," she said, "but then I felt really proud of myself!"

I agree with both of them! It may be scary and nerve racking, but once you get past that, it's quite the experience!



# Miscoe and the Arts

## One Act Play Competition

By: Cecelia Van Norman, grade 6

Before the One Act Play competition, I asked the directors of each of the four plays one very important question; Why do you think your play will win?

Ryan Chase, director of *Living Statues* says he thought his play would win because of its plot line. "I think it has a strong plot line." He said.

Lizzie Pontzer, director of *Brave Princess* and *The Mountain Dweller*, on the other hand, thought it would be because of her cast. "It's a great cast," she said, "and we haven't had any issues."

Paige Alcott, director of *Sabotage* agreed. She said her cast made a great team.

"We're very hardworking," She said. She thought she had made the right choice when casting.

Cicely Dunster, director of, *Fastest Thimble in the West*, was quite confident with her response. "Our story is very fun and creative and there is never a dull moment." She said. "Also, our cast is doing a great job portraying their characters. Plus, I think we have an amazing set!"

### One Act Results:

Best Play: Sabotage

Best Actors: Jacob Collard

and Jenna Meleedy

Best Supporting Actor: Sydney Vanasse

Best Director: Paige Alcott

Best Ensemble Cast: Sabotage

Best Set: The Fastest Thimble in the West

Best Use of Special Effects: The

Fastest Thimble in the West

Best Improvisation: Mallory

Chace, Lucy Wiklund, Erin

Toomey

Audience Choice: The Fastest

Thimble in the West

## Fame Jr.: The Aftermath

By: Cecelia Van Norman, grade 6



The cast of *Fame Jr.* Lead characters in front. Photo by Cecelia Van Norman.

### What was it like to be a main character?

- Jenna Meleedy (Mabel)  
"It was weird, but in a good way! It was just strange that people depend on me so much"
- Darryl Lubin (Tyrone)  
"It made me feel like I'm just a big part of Fame and if I didn't memorize my lines I'd be letting everyone down."
- Erin Toomey (Iris)  
"It was really fun!"
- Meghan Laurence (Ms. Sherman)  
"It was really fun and really scary at the same time!"
- Joshua Crosby (Mr. Meyers)  
"I liked it, it was just hard to memorize all my lines."
- Eric RaPiejico (Mr. Sheinkopf)  
"Well, I wasn't really a 'main character', I was more of a supporting. But it was still pretty interesting to play a foreign teacher!"
- Cicely Dunster (Carmen)  
"It was really fun because I got to have more lines and I could act as a different person."
- Anastasia Siryk (Ms. Belle)  
"It made me feel empowered and helped build my confidence."

- Chet Simpson (Joe)  
"It was fun because I could do more and could kinda make the lines my own."
- Emma Offord (Serena)  
"It was exciting but also stressful."
- Ryan Chase (Nick)  
"It was very cool, but it was annoying to have to memorize lines."
- Sydney Vanasse (Goody)  
"It was great because I had lines and I could express myself on stage."
- Olivia Black (Lambchops)  
"It was fun but intense because I've never been a one before."
- Jacob Collard (Schlomo)  
"It was a really fun and a good opportunity."

### Do have any advice for kids who might want to audition in the future?

- Sydney  
"Don't be nervous! The directors are looking for people who are confident."
- Cicely  
"Definitely practice because the more you practice the better chance you get at becoming a main part. Also, be loud and proud."

- Anastasia  
"Make sure your loud, confident, and prepared."
- Chet  
"I'd say don't be nervous and put yourself out there."
- Erin  
"Just try your hardest."
- Joshua  
"Practice your lines!"
- Olivia  
"Just know that no matter how big your role is, you're still contributing."
- Jacob  
"Study your lines. In the long run it'll be worth it."
- Jenna  
"Don't worry and be confident."
- Ryan  
"Don't be nervous."
- Emma  
"You shouldn't be nervous about auditions."
- Darryl  
"Don't be upset if you don't get a large role."
- Meghan  
"Don't be scared and try your best."
- Eric  
"Really express yourself."



# Enrichment Overview

## Everyday Enrichments

By Sera DeBaggis, grade 5 and Jenna Meleedy, grade 8

Every day of the week there are special classes for kids who want to have fun. They start at the beginning of each term. There are many different enrichments for people with different interests, so there's bound to be something for everyone. The enrichment program is great and if you give it a chance, you can make it greater. Here are just a few options and how they work:

**Robotics 102** It starts with constructing a base robot through instructions and later adding on many mechanics like wires and tank treads.

**Crazy for Cupcakes** Every student brings in a dozen unfrosted cupcakes (store bought or homemade) and frosts them depending on the season. There

are lots of different candies and other decorations to pile on top as well.

**STEM Club** Students work with materials such as popsicle sticks and pasta to build buildings, racecars, towers, and other contraptions. This is a great way to learn engineering techniques.



Blueprints and materials used by the Robotics Club.  
Photo by Jenna Meleedy

**Art Club** In Art Club you can make butterfield horses, sculpted necklaces, broken skateboard paintings, clay ocarinas, iPad holders, duct tape wallets and more.

The last enrichment of the year runs from April 10—June 2. Watch for the upcoming announcement about the different enrichment programs being offered.



## SAVE THE DATE

### 3rd Annual Community iFair

Thursday, March 30  
Sessions run from 6 - 8p.m.

### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Student Demos • Hands-on Learning Activities  
Insider Technology Tips

For more information or if you'd like to participate,  
contact David Quinn, Director of Technology  
Integration at [dquinn@mursd.org](mailto:dquinn@mursd.org).

Miscoe Hill Middle School Presents

# M.E.S.S.

Miscoe Elective Student Showcase

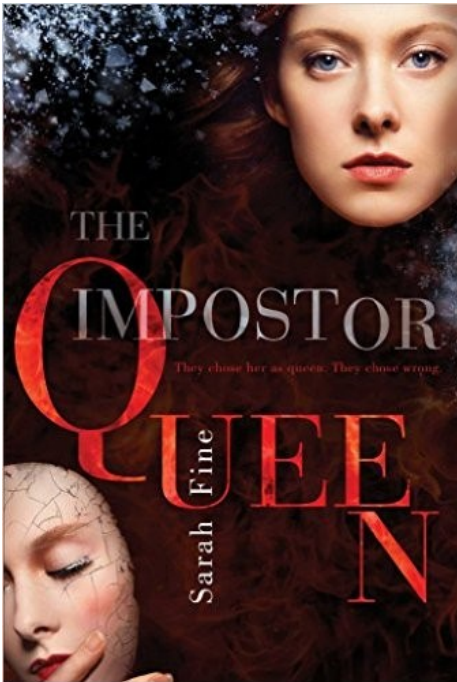
One night only!

**ART**  
**TECHNOLOGY**  
**SPANISH & FRENCH**  
**LIBRARY**

Miscoe Hill Middle School  
Tuesday, April 11<sup>TH</sup>  
6-8pm  
148 North Ave.  
Mendon

Page 9

# Interview with an Author



## The Tale Behind the Tale

By: Luke Venable, grade 6

On January 19th Sarah Fine, the author of multiple books, came to the Mendon library. I had many questions for her starting with, “why did you decide to be an author?” She said that she loved reading so she wanted to see if she could write a book and it just turned out that she could. Next I asked, “how long did it take to write your first book?” She said that her first book took a month to write. It just came out really quickly because she was really excited. She said that it was a great experience. My next question was, “how many times did you have to change her book before it was published?” She replied that after she writes the first draft a friend reads it (called a beta read) and she changes it based on that feedback. Then she gave it to an editor. And with the editor you do at least one round of big revisions and the first round they don't suggest little changes they write a letter with the huge changes. This part of the editing can be very long. After that, when they send back and if they are satisfactory (sometimes takes two rounds) then they start doing smaller changes such as trimming and tightening. Then it goes to copy edits. The copy editors look for continuity such as green eyes one page brown on another. After the copy edits it goes to the proof reader. They just look for tiny errors. Then they send to the author the first past pages which is the main layout of the book. This process takes a very long time.

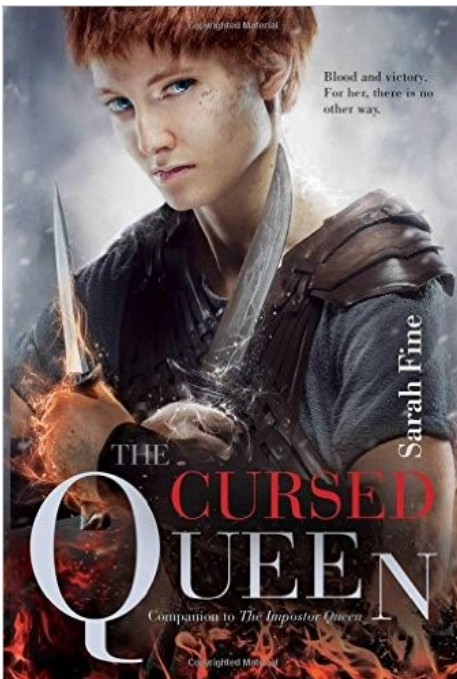
My next question was, “how did you decide what to write about?” She replied that each time the idea

comes differently. Sometimes from nonfiction books, or an idea that sort of grows or two ideas that come together. Really anything that you are excited about. After that I asked, “when and why did you decide to write a sequel?” She then said, “If it is contract then you plan to do it. Usually you know when you are writing a sequel in the first book.”

Is asked if she had any advice for kids wanting to become authors and she responded, “You should read as much as you possibly can. If you read your whole life and are a really passionate reader and understand what books you really enjoy the most then you can write that kind of book. Don't expect all your books to turn out the way you want them to.”

My next question was, “What is the best thing about being an author?” “Writing the books.” She replied. “Telling a story for the first time is just really really exciting. And the rest of the stuff with it is kinda cool.” After that I asked the opposite question, “What is the hardest thing about being an author?” “It's kind of hard when your book is out and once your book is out you can't change it if you want.” She replied. Starting to conclude the interview I said, “When you're an author do you often have to work with other people?”

“A large amount is solitary but you have a literary agent, editor's, prediction teams, booksellers, librarians, book loggers.” She said. “What advice would you give to people who can't finish a book?” I asked. “I've skipped ahead to write the exciting spots and then I connect the dots. Some authors always do that.” She replied. I believe that my interview with Sarah Fine was very successful.





# Miscoe Creative Corner

## One Crazy Time

By: Kevin Galicki, grade 6

It was my favorite day of the week Saturday, the first Saturday of summer. The second I stepped off the bus I was so happy. The bright sun shined and I walked in to say hi to my parents. I searched the house and no one was there. I checked the driveway and saw our car packed completely full. I went to my parents and they told me right there that we were leaving California and moving to Massachusetts. At first I was scared because it was a long journey to a place where my parents were the only people that I knew.

After a long, long car ride we made it to Boston. We got to our house in a suburban area which was very

different from the city. School here is very similar to school in California. Then lunch came and I sat at a table with a kid named Jack. He and I became best friends. After about two weeks, my parents told me that we were moving home to California. I was happy and sad because I got to see my old friends again but I just lost one best friend. So we got home and everything was normal again. Then about a month back my parents said that we were moving back to Massachusetts. So we got there and I said hi to Jack again. We had so much fun then my parents said we were moving back to California. But I told my mom that if they wanted to come back to California they would have to leave me here. And that is exactly what they did, they left me in an orphanage with hundreds of other kids.

For weeks I was devastated that my parents put me in an orphanage because they wanted to stay in California. Then I saw Jack walk in with his family. They saw me and asked what I was doing here. I told them everything and then I said goodbye. But then I saw them at the main desk. They came back and asked if I wanted to live with them and become Jack's brother. I said yes without any hesitation. I was living with Jack for two years and then my parents came and asked if I wanted to come back with them. But I let go of them like they let go of me. So they went home sad and I stayed as happy as I could be.

## Book Recommendations

By Daniel Fransen, grade 6

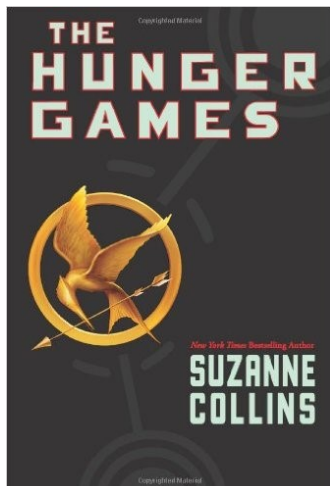
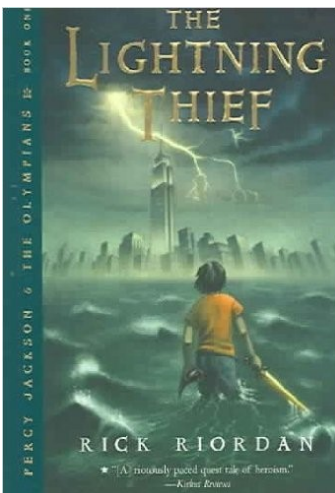
Reading is fun, but sometimes it is hard to try new books! The next time you are bored or when you run out of books to read try these books. These books are the first of a series of books so if you get hooked on the first one, you can read more.

### The Lightning Thief

This book is Book 1 in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series. It is about Percy Jackson, a sixth grader who lives with his mother. He finds out the Greek gods are real, and that his father who he never knew, turned out to be Poseidon, God of the Sea.

### The Hunger Games

This book is the first part in The Hunger Games series. In the story, North America is destroyed and from it, is Panem, with 13 districts and the capitol. Because of the bad conditions people were going through, the districts started to rebel against the capitol. They lost, so the capitol created The Hunger Games, a fight to the death that one boy and one girl from the twelve remaining districts (the thirteenth being destroyed). The main character, Katniss Everdeen, volunteers to compete in it so her younger sister doesn't have to.





# Edible School Supplies

## D.I.Y. Edible Pencil Eraser

By Naomi Singh, grade 5

In this D.I.Y. (do-it-yourself) you'll learn how to make a pencil with an edible eraser! The pencil itself is not food, and certainly not yummy, but the eraser will be made out of gum.

First, take a new pencil with a full eraser, so that it's easier to take out. Gently pull out the eraser, and then rinse out the inside of the metal holder, so that you are not eating any tiny bits of pencil or eraser. So far, your pencil should look like this:



Now, take some flat gum. Make sure that you can bend it into any shape. Carefully roll the gum until it's longer than the original eraser, but roughly the same width. Now, push it into the metal holder, and cut and shape it until it looks like an original eraser.

At this point, you can do whatever you want! You could walk into class and take a bite out of your pencil



eraser and stun the whole class! You'll always have a sweet snack in your desk as well, and no one will know! Just be careful around little children, because this is still gum and you shouldn't swallow gum.

Have fun!

## Home of The Braves

### Check out Home of The Braves on the Miscoe Hill website!

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Thanks to the  
Mendon and Upton  
Cultural Councils.



Questions or comments?

Contact us!  
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### Want to be part of our staff?

An email will be sent with information about our next issue.

## April Vacation

### April Vacation Ideas

By: Popia Greenwald, grade 6

After some research, I found some places that you might like to go to with your family for April vacation. For the people who are going to be staying home, or staying in MA, this article is for you. The New England Aquarium is a place where families get to see wonderful sea animals! Some animals include, octopi, tropical fish, and many other things!

Purgatory Chasm is a very nice park/ hiking trail where you and your family

could go together. Purgatory Chasm has other trails that leads to a small waterfall, and it includes many different challenges around it. Be careful though, Purgatory Chasm is a **very** beautiful place, and you might be obsessed with the place.

Another great place you could go, is the Museum of Science! The museum of science isn't just about science, it is also about spending time with your family. Inside, you should find a big chess set, a bubble area, and a bunch of optical illusions. Have a great vacation, and have a great day.

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